

FILED

APR 20 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2018

CITY CLERK

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF REA PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, SPECIFICALLY FRIENDS OF REA PARK, INC.

WHEREAS, the City of Terre Haute has demonstrated its' willingness to preserve its' rich culture and heritage by nominating and maintaining properties within city boundaries that are listed on Indiana and United States registers of historic places, sites and structures;

WHEREAS, the City of Terre Haute entered into an agreement with the trust of William S. Rea on August 23, 1922 to establish a public park on the south side of the city, with terms dictating the city would forever beautify and maintain said park as William S. Rea Park;

WHEREAS, John T. Beasley, a close friend of the Rea family is quoted in September 11, 1925 Terre Tribune stating "While this park will be made the center of other recreational activities in the next few years, there is nothing finer than the great game of golf. It provides plenty of physical exercise, has its broadening influence and cements friendship in such a manner as nothing else can. I believe that the average American citizen – that is the one who works at all – works too hard and nothing offers greater inducement to the business man to get out in the open air and forget the worries of business affairs than do golf courses. This course is one of the most beautiful in the state, even the country, and is something of which Terre Haute may well be proud;"

WHEREAS, City of Terre Haute officials thought Rea Park to be one of the most beautiful 18-hole public golf courses in the United States at the time of its opening in 1925; and Geraldine Rea, the widow of William S. Rea, provided funding to build a beautiful clubhouse on park grounds;

WHEREAS, in 2017, William S. Rea Park was placed on the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures and the United States Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places;

WHEREAS, despite having excellent public schools, outstanding institutions of higher learning, an ideal geographic location, and modern infrastructure, improvement in the overall in health of Vigo County citizens would improve the City's attractiveness to business, industry and all forms of commerce;

WHEREAS, the ability some Terre Haute residents have to pay for health and recreation activities is limited;

WHEREAS, the renewal of Rea Park can greatly benefit Terre Haute residents, young and old alike, by promoting life-long sports and healthy living;

WHEREAS, Friends of Rea Park, Inc. (FORP), an IRS approved 403(b) non-profit organization, in partnership with the Terre Haute Parks Department, Indiana Landmarks Western Office, and Dan Sanders & Associates, Inc. Architects, completed a comprehensive study in April 2017 entitled "The Renewal of Historic Rea Park: An Economic Development/Health and Wellness Initiative";

WHEREAS, the Friends of Rea Park, Inc. study recommends facility improvements be made to the park such as:

1. Restoring the historic clubhouse into an all-inclusive park activity center
2. Replacing existing tennis court areas
3. Modernizing the existing driving range
4. Establishing a running/walking trail around the park
5. Developing a space for picnickers with playground equipment for families to enjoy
6. Identifying private vendors who could operate businesses on park property, sharing a percentage of their profits with the city, such as,
  - a. A restaurant/catering operator who would locate in the newly renovated clubhouse, a company to fully develop the driving range into a public golf academy, and a partnership with local healthcare providers that would establish an outdoor racket sports/fitness center;

WHEREAS, Rea Park is located in a strategic highly visible location on City's south side far from the City's other major parks; collaboration between the city parks department, area businesses, local schools, area healthcare providers and Westminster Village should be encouraged;

WHEREAS, investment in the Rea Park renovation project by private companies, individuals, and other governmental units could be promoted; AND

WHEREAS, the cost of Rea Park's restoration is reasonable when compared to other similar parks and recreation projects that could be considered by local government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TERRE HAUTE CITY COUNCIL:  
The Terre Haute City Council encourages the City Administration, City Parks Board and the City Parks Superintendent to:

1. Become familiar with details of the Friends of Rea Park, Inc. renewal study;
2. Make recommendations that will strengthen the study and its chances of public acceptance and successful implementation;
3. Join with Friends of Rea Park, Inc. and Indiana Landmarks to identify final park master and clubhouse renovation plans, and a timeline for project implementation phases;

4. Assign a park board member and city parks department representative to sit on an advisory board that will guide activities leading to the successful implementation of the Friends of Rea Park, Inc. renewal plan;
5. Actively participate/cooperate in marketing the Friends of Rea Park, Inc. renewal study to the greater Terre Haute community;
6. Encourage city golf staff at both public courses to present all project fundraising and project undertakings in a positive manner;
7. Lend assistance in planning and implementing fundraising efforts, including grant proposal development and activities involving the solicitation of individuals, private organizations, and governmental agencies for needed project resources;
8. Seek legal guidance from the city attorney's office during all phases of the project; and
9. Develop and approval all necessary documents and/or agreements specifically setting forth the use of any privately raised funds for improvement projects at Rea Park.

Introduced by: O. Earl Elliott O. Earl Elliott, Councilperson.

Passed in open Council this 10 day of May, 2018.

Curtis DeBaun Curtis DeBaun, President

ATTEST: Michelle L. Edwards Michelle L. Edwards, City Clerk

Presented by me to the Mayor this 11 day of May, 2018.

Michelle L. Edwards Michelle L. Edwards, City Clerk

Approved by me, the Mayor, this 11th day of MAY, 2018.

Duke A. Bennett Duke A. Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST: Michelle L. Edwards Michelle L. Edwards, City Clerk